

CLAIM LISTING

1. (Currently Amended) A method of supplying a replacement denture to a denture wearer upon the loss of an original denture, without requiring the assistance of the denture wearer to fit the replacement denture, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a mold by depositing a material in surrounding relationship to the original denture before the material takes a substantially permanent set.;
allowing the material to take on a substantially permanent set;
removing the original denture from the mold;
storing the mold with the mold retaining its substantially permanent set configuration, wherein at least a portion of the mold is formed of a material having sufficiently permanent dimensional stability to retain its shape while the mold is stored so that a duplicate replacement denture can be fabricated upon loss of the original denture;
and

introducing initially fluent denture material into the mold and permitting the denture material to solidify within the mold to form a duplicate replacement denture when a replacement denture is subsequently needed.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the mold is formed within a container in which the mold is storable to allow subsequent fabrication of the replacement denture.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a substitute denture to a patient upon the loss of an original denture, so that the substitute denture has a shape corresponding to a shape of the original denture so that a denture wearer can use the substitute denture in comfort, the method comprising the steps of:

constructing a mold having a shape corresponding to the shape of the original denture prior to the loss of the original denture;

the mold being constructed by forming a first mold section conforming to only a tissue side of the original denture, the first mold section being formed of a material having sufficiently permanent dimensional stability so that the first mold section will retain its shape for a period of time at least equal to an anticipated life of the original denture;

forming a second mold section conforming to all exterior surfaces of the original denture other than the tissue side [or] of the denture; and

storing the mold and using the mold to form the substitute denture upon loss of the original denture.

4. (Original) A method of fabricating a denture comprising the steps of:

constructing a mold with a mold cavity for forming the denture;

depositing a first material into a portion of the mold cavity to form denture teeth wherein the first material is allowed to solidify to form a first subcomponent, a portion of the first subcomponent having the shape of exposed portions of teeth in the denture fabricated in the mold, wherein the first subcomponent is removed from the mold and trimmed to remove material that would extend beyond a gum line at an edge of the denture teeth;

forming a first passage in the mold, the first passage entering the mold cavity at a location spaced from the portion of the mold cavity in which first material is deposited to form denture teeth; and

injecting a second material through the first passage into the mold cavity to form a gum portion of the denture so that the mold cavity is filled with the first and second materials wherein the first subcomponent is reinserted into the mold after trimming and before the second material is injected into the mold cavity; and

bonding the first and second materials to form the denture.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein first and second passages are drilled into the mold, the second material being injected into the first passage into the mold cavity, with excess portions of the second material flowing from the mold cavity into the second passage.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein a third passage is drilled into the cavity, the second and third passages forming passages for receiving excess portions of the second material to insure that the mold cavity is filled.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the first passage is drilled through a central section of the mold and the second and third passages are drilled through flanking

sections of the mold on opposite sides of the central section so that the mold cavity is completely filled.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the denture is trimmed along a juncture between the first passage and the mold cavity to remove the denture from the mold.

10-14 (Withdrawn) .

15. (Original) A method of duplicating a denture comprising the steps of:

pressing a deformable material into contiguous relationship with the tissue side of a denture so that the deformable material substantially covers the tissue side;

positioning a flask lid on an exterior surface of the deformable material so that the deformable material is positioned between the denture and the flask lid;

mounting the flask lid, with the deformable material and the denture affixed thereto on a flask base;

introducing a curable material into the flask base so that the curable material fills open portions of the flask and forms an impression of the remaining portions of the denture including teeth, lingual flange, and other exposed gum portions of the denture;

curing the curable material to form a solid mold base;

removing the deformable material from the tissue side of the denture;

introducing a curable material into the volume vacated by the deformable material and curing the curable material to form a tissue side denture mold, matable with the mold base;

removing the denture leaving a mold cavity formed between the tissue side denture mold and the solid mold base;

forming a duplicate denture by filling the mold cavity with material suitable for forming a denture.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of duplicating a denture comprising the steps of:

fabricating a tissue side mold:

fabricating an exterior side mold, with a parting surface between the tissue side mold and the exterior side mold being located to substantially include an edge separating a denture tissue side from a denture exterior side, the tissue side mold and the exterior side mold forming a mold cavity wherein the exterior side mold is fabricated by

introducing a curable material into a denture flask base, after positioning the denture in the denture flask base with the denture tissue side being covered to block the curable material; and

introducing materials suitable for forming a duplicate denture into the mold cavity.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [17] 16 wherein the tissue side mold blocks the curable material from being deposited on the denture tissue side.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [17] 16 wherein a temporary filler material blocks the curable material from being deposited on the denture tissue side, the filler material subsequently being removed for formation of the tissue side mold.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the tissue side mold is fabricated before fabrication of the exterior side mold.

21. Canceled

22-26. (Withdrawn)

27. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a mold for use in forming a duplicate denture comprising the steps of forming a first mold portion and a second mold portion, the first and second mold portions forming at least parts of a mold cavity in which the duplicate denture can be formed, the method being characterized in that [at least one of the] both the first and second mold portions [is] are formed by pouring a fluid material through [an] exterior [surface] surfaces of a mold flask and allowing the fluid material to solidify to form the [latter] mold [portion] portions, the mold flask being [position] positioned during formation of each mold portion such that air bubbles in the [latter] each mold portion, when solidified, are formed at locations spaced from the mold cavity.

28. (Newly Presented) A method of duplicating a denture comprising the steps of:

fabricating an exterior side mold;

fabricating an tissue side mold, with a parting surface between the tissue side mold and the exterior side mold being located to substantially include an edge separating a denture tissue side from a denture exterior side, the tissue side mold and the exterior side mold forming a mold cavity wherein the tissue side mold is fabricated by introducing

a curable material into a denture flask, after positioning the denture in the denture flask with the denture exterior side being covered to block the curable material; and
introducing materials suitable for forming a duplicate denture into the mold cavity.